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of the Parsees, has passed entirely over to Shemitic creeds. What has been the cause of this remarkable phenomenon? How is it that nations, which hold the guidance of the world, have abdicated their own creed to adopt that of those whom they have overcome?"

The reasons which Professor Renan assigns for this fact must be read in Mr. Trübner's excellent translation. Professor Renan's concluding remarks will re-echo a sentiment of admiration in the minds of all sincere anthropologists, who study their noble science without *a priori* prejudices, or cringing concessions in favour of unscientific assumptions.

INHERITANCE OF AN ABNORMAL DISTORTION OF THE WRIST.

By CHARLES H. CHAMBERS.

SOME remarks of Dr. Waitz upon the persistency of deviations from normal forms in various races or groups of mankind, have made me think it worth while to communicate a fact which came under my notice some years since, and which, as the evidence on the subject is accumulative, is not I think unworthy of being signalled. I happened three years since to be in the Shetland islands; I was at a place in the south of the mainland, called Koningsborough, and one day, having seen the herring boats take their departure, was returning home, when I was accosted by a fisherman, who asked me to give him advice about his son who had had a dangerous fall from some cliffs. I assured him I was neither a physician nor surgeon, but he still insisted upon it, and I examined the boy's arm which, though bruised, was unbroken; I remarked that it was, as I thought at first, dislocated, but, on further examination, found that what I imagined was dislocation was an abnormal growth of the bone above the joint which projected to the height of nearly three-quarters of an inch; finding that it was a bruise, I said I would send down an embrocation from Lerwick, and on getting to it I went to the medical man there and told him of the case. When I mentioned this abnormal growth, he said that that was not singular there, as he had remarked that bony excrescence on the wrist in very many of the natives. There is no doubt a great deal of intermarrying among relations, and it is possible that an accidental deformity has, in this way, become perpetuated among the natives of the islands.

HUMAN REMAINS IN LOUGH GUR, COUNTY LIMERICK.

IN the *Reader* of January 23rd, appears the abstract of a paper, read by Dr. Carte, before the Geological Society of Dublin, on the 13th of January, "On the Recent Discovery of Bones of the Polar Bear in Lough Gur, County Limerick; with observations on their comparison with Bones of the Cave Bear in the Collection of the Earl of Ennis-

killen." The facts by Dr. Carte were corroborated by Prof. Jukes, Mr. Blyth (of Calcutta), and the Rev. Dr. Houghton. The most interesting anthropological fact was disclosed by Mr. Scott, who said, "that two distinct kinds of human remains had been found in Lough Gur. One of these was evidently very ancient. There was a skull, however, which did not appear to have been very long in the lake. He would ask anatomists to say whether some of the skulls found in the lake did not point to the existence in Ireland, at a remote period, of a race totally distinct from its present inhabitants. Dr. Blyth stated that there was not *sufficient* of the skull remaining to warrant an opinion being formed." The *Reader* goes on to add, "subsequently, however, we learn that that gentleman has been shown a fragment of an ancient Irish human skull, with wide glabella and prominent frontal sinuses, which he thought there could be little doubt appertained to the now Arctic race of mankind, which is known as the hyperborean Mongol." This fact is most interesting to anthropologists. The skulls which we have seen from the "river beds" of Ireland, and especially from the river Blackwater, and from Bovies on the river Nore, present a type very distinct from that of the "Mongol," or from the brachycephalic "stone period" skulls. They belong to the same great group of skulls as the specimens from Muskham (Trent valley), Towyn-y-capel in Anglesea, and other localities, some of which have been described by Prof. Huxley, or by Mr. Carter Blake (*Geologist*, June, 1862). Our attention has been long drawn by Mr. W. Davies, of the British Museum, to the remarkable variation in the proportions of bones of cave-bear from various deposits, and we hope that some of them may be carefully compared with *Thalarcos maritimus*.

THE DANISH KITCHEN MIDDENS.

To the Editor of the Anthropological Review.

SIR,—As I was returning from a stay of some months in Norway, in the year 1857, I went to Copenhagen. The first object of my devotion was Thorwaldsen and his mausoleum, which, as most of your readers are aware, contains a complete collection of his works exactly copied in marble, as well as some of the originals, while some of his most famous works are in the town. My next was the fine ethnographic collections, especially of northern antiquities. I was also anxious to see Professor Worsaae. I was so unfortunate as to find the gallery, for a certain time, permanently closed to the public. Professor Worsaae's brother had just died, and he had gone into the country, and I was referred to Professor Thomsen in order to obtain leave to see the museums. He was most kind and courteous, and not only gave me permission, but himself came with me. I think it may not be uninteresting to some of your readers to give from my journals the impressions conveyed by what was then a recent discovery, and the substance of the remarks of so able and specially qualified a man as Professor Thomsen upon the ethnology and peopling of the north of